

WEST HAGBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER 2008

Location: Hagbourne Primary School

Present: Phil Taylor (PT), Sue Totterdell (ST), John Thornhill (JT), Marion Judd (MBJ)
Tom Barker (TB), Cllr Patrick Greene, Peter Ronald, OCC Highways

Members of the public present: Terry Pritchard

1. Apologies and reasons for absence – None

2. Declarations of interest -

All Councillors' involvement with other Committees has been passed to ML who will now produce a list and place on file for reference. (see communication)

3. Public participation session

Terry Pritchard made the following comments:-

- TP has been in communication with John Wood of OCC Transport regarding the bus timetables and the fact that they do not coincide with train timetables. JW agreed with some of Terry's points and may amend one of the services. There is a problem in that the train timetables change on a regular basis so may not always synchronise with the buses.

4. Approval of Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising

Error in previous minutes (corrected) Terry's e-mail address and fencing in York Road up to Sub-Station (corrected).

- The Council passed the minutes as a true and correct record. There were no matters arising.

5. District and County Councillor's reports

Cllr Patrick Greene commented as follows:-

- Due to the increase in facilities in Didcot eg.) Cinema, Arts Centre there should be sufficient public transport ie. Buses to get there, particularly evenings/weekends.
- PG commented on the Arts Centre now open and would encourage people to visit.
- Big Tidy Up being promoted by SODC.
- David Buckle appointed Chief Exec for VWHDC/SODC shared management wef February 2009 although policies will remain separate for each Council.
- OCC Partnership – there has been a crackdown on Trading Standards.
- 106 Agreement for Great Western Park – Huw Jones (OCC) confirmed in an e-mail that there was money available for traffic calming in both East and West Hagbourne. PT confirmed that this was referring to money for traffic monitoring and the message had become confused, a received by public at WH Parish Meeting. There will be a developer consultation re traffic calming expecting a response by WHPC.
- All Park & Ride Services in Oxford are now run by Oxfordshire County Council who will not be charging to park in the car parks. In the past it has cost £1 to park the car as well as the bus fare so this is good news.

- Thames Water Utilities Management Plan mainly deals with leakages. The Government recommendation for consumption of water is 130 litres per head per day and TWU recommendation is 160 litres per head per day. There is no case for a Reservoir at present.
- Phil Taylor raised a query about re-development funds for Didcot Parkway development but PG had heard nothing about this.
- The proposed incinerator was discussed and PG confirmed that it will have to be built somewhere and it has a 50% chance of it being Sutton Courtenay. He confirmed that lorry movements to and from the site would be minimal.
- Flooding Review has been rubber stamped and will go forward as a public document to help householders to take preventative measures.
- SE Plan – rural gap removed/reworded (disappointing)

6. Traffic Issues

Peter Ronald went through the points as set out in the Councils detailed letter sent to Highways from WHPC in March 2008, as follows:-

- There are fines for vehicles exceeding the weight limit and all vehicles should be reported to Trading Standards as reported in the minutes of the May meeting.
- To discourage vehicles from leaving the A34 and turning right in the direction of Chilton Hill at the junction PR agreed to add signing for Didcot turning left towards Harwell. This may help to alleviate the volume of HGV traffic heading for West Hagbourne.
- Also PR agreed to improve signing of weight restriction signs clearly at the Georgetown Roundabout in Didcot.
- As PR was not prepared to re-locate the 30mph limit at the Eastern end of the village it was also agreed that existing signing would be improved, on entering the village, each end if space allows, worded PLEASE DRIVE CAREFULLY.
- On the subject of 30mph signs – they do conform with regulations, however it was agreed that PR will review this and look at the possibility of increasing the signage.
- Chevron on Brook Lane is to be moved to be more visible.
- State of York Road – recently inspected and no dangerous potholes were found by the Highways Inspector. PR was asked if it would be ok for a resident to accompany the Highways Inspector on his next visit and he agreed it should not be a problem.
- The area outside Green Thatch - too narrow for a footway, and he offered no solution, for now or in the future.
- It was noted that the roadway had been re-surface dressed near pond.
- PR agreed that the lines will be repainted by Green Thatch.
- The hedges at the bottom of Hagbourne Hill were recently inspected and are not believed to be causing a problem. PR was asked to liaise with Thames Water who own the hedge to get them to cut it back.
- PR agreed to replace the missing reflector previously on the electricity pole at eastern boundary of Green Thatch, but asked for help in identifying location.
- Flooding of the Highway – the pond was blamed for the flooding – needs re-investigating.
- The Didcot Integrated Traffic Study is not active and no funds are available at present.
- PR suggested another electronic traffic survey will be carried out in the near future to establish the amount of increased traffic, particularly now that the Diamond Project is up and running.
- PR agreed to re-position the Milestone on the A417 which appears to have been hit by agricultural machinery as no grass cutting has been undertaken in the area for months.

7. Planning Applications

- Ivy Farm Appeal – barn conversion – appeal decision awaited.
- Grove Farm – French doors – no strong views
- 1 Grove Terrace – extension – no strong views
- 10 Manor Close – loft conversion – no strong views

8. Amendments to SE Plan

- Strategic Gap has been removed. Infrastructure is no longer a pre-requisite.
- PWG referred to a powerpoint presentation at a SODC recent meeting (ML to request copy) which raised several significant points.
- Oppose increase in housing allocation.
- MBJ and PT met with Adrian Duffield (Head of SODC Planning) regarding sustainability on Wednesday 10th September at Crowmarsh and reported back that this was very useful and positive meeting. WHPC must make sure that the Parish Plan is regularly updated with new points eg.). ST to look at the SE Plan consultation on pricing strategy and report back (ML has CD – pass to ST with PG's presentation). AD stressed that feedback is important with as much detail as possible – for example, online shopping as a source of changed sustainability

9. Consultations –

- Core Strategy Consultation – MBJ to pass to ML to send response (by 22/9)
- Sustainable Community Strategy for South Oxfordshire – MBJ to pass to ML for sending response (by 22/9)

10. Village Maintenance

- Village garden – ST will start the dramatic cut back etc in the coming weeks. ML to supply trailer and dispose of waste.
- Chris and Sue Lay happy to see something similar to previous planter.
- Maintenance of Village seats – Date to be changed to w/e of 20th/21st September due to holidays etc. Hugh has agreed to jet wash the seat around the tree in The Square prior to re-staining.
- Skip – to be placed in Greengate Lane weekend of 25th/26th October 2008.
- Shrubs – Marion has some shrubs/young trees to be planted in Moor Lane until it is decided where they will go permanently.

11. Communication

- a) Clerk went through recent correspondence
 - The area of bank between Enard Cottage and The Thatch will be cleared and grass seed sown, and any bulb planting deferred until 2009.
 - Grass cutting schedule to be reviewed for 2009/10 by November and a new map prepared for contractors who will be asked to re-tender. Roger Sweet suggested some minor amends, which will be incorporated into the new schedule, and this will be circulated for approval. ie by Scotland's Ash garage.
 - Overhanging brambles on footpath from Horse & Harrow to York Road – to be cut asap. PT to ask Rowan Napper.

- Foxglove Lane to East Hagbourne pathway reported as uneven – OCC Highways to be informed.
- Kerb opposite Horse & Harrow, the Council has been advised the kerb stones will be replaced like for like during Winter 2008/09 by OCC Highways and the footway will be resurfaced.
- Margaret Reed of SODC responded regarding conflict of interest in respect of the proposed Broomsticks development. It was confirmed that for the purposes of this project no member of West Hagbourne Parish Council is in a position to make a formal response to a future planning application at Broomsticks.

b) Newsletter

- Two new applications made to advertise in the Newsletter from organisations outside of the village. It was agreed to continue to accept further advertising in the Newsletter and to review this periodically. The newsletter is now self funding.
- It was agreed that Roger Sweet's insert regarding promotion of the website can be incorporated into the next Newsletter.

12. Finance

- The Council accepted and approved the attached monthly report on expenditure and the report on cheques signed since the last meeting.

13. Any Other Business

- It was noted that the footpath which leaves Moor Lane, westbound toward Frog Alley Upton Parish has been diverted by the landowner with fencing that takes the route to the edge of the field.
- For reporting of Highway matters MJB pointed out that there is a public website www.FixMyStreet.com which may add more impact and be dealt with more effectively.

Date of next meeting – **13th November 2008 at 7.30pm** at East Hagbourne School

Chairman..... Date.....